

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2565

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PDEV PBOR IS
SUBJ: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

REFS: A. STATE 40483, B. TEL AVIV A-28

1. IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE TELLS US THAT THE SMALL CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT OF KADESH BARNEA IS LOCATED AT THE KADESH BARNEA ANTIQUITY SITE. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY ALSO BE A NAHAL UNIT OF THE IDF BASE AT AYN QUSAYMAH. NEITHER GROUP, ACCORDING TO A SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT SOURCE, IS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE.

2. THE GROUP OF HOUSES LOCATED ON THE MEDITERANEAN COAST IMMEDIATELY NORTHEAST OF YAMIT IS A NATURE SCHOOL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE. SUCH NATURE SCHOOLS PROVIDE WEEKEND OR WEEK-LONG COURSES FOR STUDENTS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA. THEY ALSO SERVE AS YOUTH HOSTELS. AS FOR TALMEI YOSEF, THIS SETTLEMENT IS BEING ESTABLISHED DUE EAST OF SADOT. (AN OUTLINE OF PRESENT AND PLANNED SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN SINAI AND GAZA STRIP BEING SENT SEPAIR.)

3. THE AVSHALOM REGIONAL CENTER IS LOCATED ADJACENT
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TO SADOT. ITS FUNCTION IS TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE, AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES TO THE SADOT BLOC.

4. ACCORDING TO HAARETZ (FEB 17, 1978), A NEW SETTLEMENT NAMED ZAHARAN, AFFILIATED WITH THE MOSHAV MOVEMENT, IS BEING ESTABLISHED NEAR NEVIOT. MEMBERS

OF THE ZAHARAN NUCLEUS NOW LIVING AT NEVIOT IN CARAVANS.

5. AN "OUTLINE PLAN" FOR THE SOUTHEAST SINAI REGION WAS APPROVED ON JANUARY 5, 1978 BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SHARON AND THE MERHAV SHLOMO DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PLANS FOR THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANTA KATERINA AREA, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER MOSHAV AND URBAN CENTER NEAR NEVIOT, HOLIDAY VILLAGES IN THE RAS MUHAMMAD AREA AND FOUR HOTELS IN THE OPHIRA/NA'AMA AREA WERE APPROVED. OUR REF B PROVIDES FY 78/79 DEVELOPMENT BUDGET LINE ITEMS FOR MERHAV SHLOMO AND GIVES SOME ELEMENTS OF ISRAELI PLANS FOR THE REGION.

6. ACCORDING TO THE SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, WATER FOR RAFAH APPROACHES SETTLEMENTS IS PROVIDED BY YARKON-NEGEV LINE OF THE NATIONAL WATER CARRIER AND COASTAL DRILLING. AT PRESENT THE WATER CARRIER PROVIDES RAFAH SETTLEMENTS WITH 4.5 MCM OF WATER ANNUALLY. BY AUTUMN 1978 AN ADDITIONAL TEN COASTAL WELLS WILL BE DRILLED (IN ADDITION TO THE TEN WHICH ARE IN OPERATION TODAY), AND YIELD FROM WELLS EXPECTED TO BE 5.5 MCM OF WATER YEARLY. THESE 20 COASTAL DRILLINGS AND INCREASING THE DRAW FROM THE CARRIER TO 6.5 MCM WILL PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THE RAFAH
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APPROACHES

UP TO 1979-80. ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION (INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF POPULATION TO THE EXISTING SETTLEMENTS AFTER 1980) WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON FURTHER INCREASING THE QUANTITY OF WATER SIPHONED OFF FROM THE YARKON-NEGEV LINE. THE TAHAL (ENGINEERING) COMPANY HAS ALREADY FORMULATED A PROGRAM FOR DOING THIS. THE SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT ADDED THAT WATER FOR QATIF BLOC AND DIKLA DERIVED ALSO FROM COASTAL DRILLING. WATER FOR HARUVIT IN NORTHERN SINAI TO COME FROM WATER CARRIER.

7. EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED WATER ISSUE WITH MAJOR AMIR CHESHIN, MILITARY GOVERNMENT LIASON OFFICER FOR GAZA STRIP. HE STATED THAT SOME FORTY DRILLINGS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED ALONG COAST OF GAZA STRIP. PART OF YIELD IS USED TO SWEETEN WATER USED BY ARABS, WHICH IS HIGH IN SALINE CONTENT. THE OTHER PART IS USED TO SUPPLY WATER TO THE QATIF BLOC. KFAR DAROM, NETZARIM, AND DIKLA ALL DRAW WATER FROM THEIR OWN WELLS. SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH APPROACHES RECEIVE THEIR WATER FROM NATIONAL WATER CARRIER, WHICH

SKIRTS OUTSIDE OF GAZA STRIP.

8. EMBASSY WILL INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENTS, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO EXCAVATION AT THE KADESH BARNEA ANTIQUITY SITE AND POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT NEAR DIZAHAV (REF A, PARAS 2A AND 2D). LEWIS

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